

# MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting  
Lansing, Michigan  
November 13, 2013

Pursuant to Section 31 of Act 327 of the Public Acts of 1945, the Commissioners of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission, created by said act, met at the Aeronautics Building, 2700 Port Lansing Road, Lansing, Michigan, on Wednesday, November 13, 2013, commencing at the hour of approximately 10:00 a.m.

## Members Present

Pete Kamarainen, Chairman  
Roger Salo, Vice Chairman  
J. David VanderVeen, Commissioner  
Rick Fiddler, Commissioner  
Russ Kavalhuna, Commissioner  
Laura Mester, Designee – MDOT  
Scott Heather, Designee – MDNR  
Capt. Mike Caldwell, Designee – MSP  
BG Len Isabelle, Designee – MDMVA  
Dave Brickey, Legal Counsel  
Mike Trout, Director

## Staff Present

Carol Aldrich	Shelly Rathbun
Dave Baker	Ralph Sims
Judy Baker	Linn Smith
Tara Ball	Anu Taneja
Matt Brinker	Rachelle Thorn
Rick Carlson	Mary Trierweiler
Randy Coller	
Kelly Crannell	
Jennifer Forbes	
Tera Fricke	
Mark Grennell	
Rick Hammond	
Leanne Hengesbach	
Chip Kraus	
Pauline Misjak	
Mark Noel	

## Members Absent

## Also Present

John Chapman, Michigan Private Airstrip Owners Association (MPAOA)  
George Eyster, MPAOA  
Ron Engel, Mead & Hunt  
Pat Frame, Reynolds, Smith & Hills, Inc.  
Chris Hass  
Joe Hass, Troy Oakland Pilots  
Eric Jaroch, Roscommon County Airport  
Vic Johnston, MPAOA  
Jim Koslosky, Prein & Newhof  
Kent Maurer, Jackson County Airport  
Dave McKenzie, MPAOA  
Brian Ryks, Gerald R. Ford International Airport  
Gary Tokar, MPAOA  
John D. Wier  
Steve Zelle, MPAOA



## I. OPENING REMARKS

The November 13, 2013 Michigan Aeronautics Commission (Commission) Meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Kamarainen at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Kamarainen welcomed all those present. He asked everyone to rise, and the Pledge of Allegiance was cited.

Chairman Kamarainen welcomed and introduced Capt. Mike Caldwell, who replaced outgoing Department of State Police Designee Lt. Col. Dan Atkinson. As commander of the Special Operations Division, Capt. Caldwell is responsible for the overall administration of the division, which includes the Michigan Intelligence Operations Center, Field Support and Aviation Section, and Communications Section. He enlisted with the department in 1990, graduating as a member of the 107th Trooper Recruit School. He has served at the Flint, Cheboygan, and Alpena posts. Most recently, Capt. Caldwell served as assistant Seventh District Commander. He has held ranks of trooper, sergeant, first lieutenant, and inspector. He is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and is a graduate of the 242nd Session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Capt. Caldwell is a native of Taylor, Michigan. Chairman Kamarainen invited Commissioner Caldwell to say a few words.

Commissioner Caldwell thanked everyone for such a warm welcome, adding he is honored to represent Director Col. Kriste Etue on the Commission and is looking forward to working with everyone.

Roll call was taken. All commissioners were present.

## II. COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. Chairman Kamarainen asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting on September 11, 2013. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was moved by Commissioner J. David VanderVeen and supported by Commissioner Rick Fiddler to approve the minutes as written. **The motion was passed unanimously.**
- B. The proposed Michigan Aeronautics Commission 2014 meeting schedule was reviewed and discussed by the Commission. The meetings scheduled for the months of January, March, July, and November will be held in the Aeronautics Auditorium in Lansing, with March being a joint meeting with the State Transportation Commission. The meeting scheduled for May is proposed to be held in the Detroit area. Commissioner Fiddler offered to have the meeting held once again at the West Michigan Aviation Academy in Grand Rapids. All options will be considered and a location will be determined at a later date. The meeting scheduled for September will be held in conjunction with the Michigan Association of Airport Executives Fall Conference on Mackinac Island.





Chairman Kamarainen asked if there were any revisions to the draft schedule. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve the schedule as written. The motion was moved by Commissioner VanderVeen and supported by Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna to approve the schedule for 2014 as written. **The motion was passed unanimously.**

C. Chairman Kamarainen asked Mr. Dave Baker to present the 19 airport sponsor contracts.

1. Gratiot Community Airport, Alma
2. Fitch H. Beach Municipal, Charlotte
3. Fitch H. Beach Municipal, Charlotte
4. Coleman A. Young Municipal, Detroit
5. Willow Run Airport, Detroit
6. Grosse Ile Municipal Airport, Detroit/Grosse Ile
7. Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids
8. Hastings City/Barry County Airport, Hastings
9. Ionia County Airport, Ionia
10. Mason County Airport, Ludington
11. Brooks Field, Marshall
12. Mason Jewett Field, Mason
13. Romeo State Airport, Romeo
14. Romeo State Airport, Romeo
15. South Haven Area Regional, South Haven
16. Three Rivers Municipal, Dr. Haines, Three Rivers
17. Oakland County International Airport, Pontiac
18. Oakland/Troy Airport, Troy
19. Oakland/Troy Airport, Troy

Chairman Kamarainen asked if there were any further comments or questions on the 19 sponsor contracts. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve contract **Nos. 1-16**. The motion was moved by Vice Chairman Roger Salo and supported by Commissioner Fiddler to approve the contracts. **All voted in favor.**

Chairman Kamarainen entertained a motion to approve contract **Nos. 17-19** for Oakland County International Airport, Pontiac and Oakland/Troy Airport, Troy. The motion was moved by Vice Chairman Salo and supported by Commissioner Fiddler to approve the contracts. This is voted on separately, as it poses a potential conflict of interest for Commissioner VanderVeen. **All voted in favor with Commissioner VanderVeen abstaining.**

Mr. Baker presented three supplemental transfers: Pellston Regional Airport of Emmet County, Pellston; Jackson County – Reynolds Field Airport, Jackson; and Canton-Plymouth-Mettetal Airport, Plymouth. He explained the process for the transfers. There were no questions on the supplemental transfers. **No Commission action is required.**

Chairman Kamarainen thanked Mr. Baker for his report.



- D. Chairman Kamarainen asked Director Mike Trout to present the Michigan Association of Airport Executives FY 2014 Training Contract.

Director Trout presented information and reported on the Michigan Association of Airport Executives (MAAE) 2014 Training Contract. The contract will provide a grant for the conduct of workshops, training programs, seminars, and conferences. These events are intended to support the education and training of airport managers and staff throughout Michigan.

In addition, the grant will help support student scholarships for those pursuing an aviation-related education. State funding will enhance the existing scholarship program available through MAAE.

This award results in an investment of \$25,000 from the Michigan Department of Transportation and \$5,000 from MAAE, for a total of \$30,000. This approach encourages specific activities and commitment and provides a greater total impact toward our goals of promoting aviation and supporting communities.

This contract will be effective from the date of award through September 30, 2014, which will include supporting MAAE's 2014 annual winter and fall conferences.

Funding Breakdown:

	<i><u>State Funding</u></i>	<i><u>MAAE Contribution</u></i>	<i><u>Total</u></i>
Workshops, Training Programs, Seminars, and Conferences	\$24,000	\$4,000	\$28,000
Scholarships	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
	<i><b>\$25,000</b></i>	<i><b>\$5,000</b></i>	<i><b>\$30,000</b></i>

Chairman Kamarainen asked if there were any further comments or questions on the MAAE proposed 2014 training contract. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve the contract. The motion was moved by Vice Chairman Salo and supported by Commissioner VanderVeen. **All voted in favor.**





### III. REPORTS

#### A. MAC Director's Report

Chairman Kamarainen asked Director Trout to give his report.

Director Trout welcomed everyone and began his report by talking about the Michigan Department of Transportation's Five-Year Program. The aviation portion of the program is about 10 percent of the total \$8.4 billion. The program encompasses the following:

- Projection of Need
- Multi Modal
- Priority – Enhancing Economic Development
- Focus on:
  - System Preservation
  - Safety
  - Mobility (of People and Goods)
- Shortfall for Aeronautics

The annual investment shortfall of \$50 million continues. The need continues to be greater than the resources. Director Trout asked for support in order to make the current program year successful and as we move forward, to understand the impact this lack of revenue will have on the system of airports.

Director Trout stated that he is excited about the Commission's involvement on both air service and general aviation issues.

The Commercial Air Service Committee is just getting off the ground. One focus for the committee is the air service study that is planned to be conducted. There will be involvement from the industry, including the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and Office of Aeronautics.

The General Aviation Committee has a role in updating the Michigan Aviation System Plan (MASP). In light of the changes in the industry, the committee will be looking at how we move forward with updating the MASP so that it will be a relevant document going into the next five- or ten-year cycle.

Director Trout spoke about the new American Airlines and how it will create opportunities in Michigan by continuing service in some of the smaller communities, as well as opening up slots at Reagan National and LaGuardia Airports. There is a variety of American and US Airways service in Michigan. The biggest question is: What will happen to the aircraft maintenance facility in Marquette? American has a huge presence at the Sawyer former



military base, which is vital for the community. We need to make sure that American and US Airways understands that we support, as a state, that effort as well.

Director Trout stated that the Great Lakes Aviation Conference is scheduled for February 14-15, 2014, at the Lansing Center in Lansing; FAA's Michigan Congressional Briefing will be held on February 18, 2014, at the Office of Aeronautics; and Michigan Airport Conference is scheduled for February 19-20, 2014, at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center in East Lansing.

Director Trout recognized and congratulated Ms. Tara Ball, Aviation Specialist, Transport and Safety Section, for her five years of state service. He also recognized and congratulated Mr. Matt Brinker, Aeronautics Specialist, Transport and Safety Section, for his fifteen years of state service.

Director Trout recognized and welcomed Ms. Rachelle Thorn, as the new aircraft registrar in the Programming Section. Welcome Rachelle!

Director Trout's report can be viewed in full on our Web page at [www.michigan.gov/aero](http://www.michigan.gov/aero).

- B. Chairman Kamarainen asked Mr. Rick Hammond to report on the General Aviation Committee on behalf of Vice Chairman Salo.

Mr. Hammond began his report by stating that the General Aviation Committee met on October 22, 2013, a few days before the Teacher Workshop. The majority of the meeting was spent finalizing details for the workshop. Other topics discussed for next year's agenda were North Fox Island and an effort to recruit a student to the committee.

Mr. Hammond stated that the Teacher Workshop was a success. The workshop did not reach the numbers as in past years, but the excitement was definitely there. There were about 70 people in attendance. Many interesting aircrafts were on display. The focus of the conference was to inform teachers of available resources, what groups are out there, where the airports are, and how to contact those people and use airports, aircraft, aviation, and aerospace as a classroom activity. Karl Klimek organized the workshop and Western Michigan University sponsored. The workshop was very well received and will be held again in the near future.

Chairman Kamarainen thanked Mr. Hammond for his report.

- C. Chairman Kamarainen asked Commissioner Rick Fiddler to give his report on the Aircraft Fleet Operations Task Force.

Commissioner Fiddler reported that the committee, along with Mr. Rick Carlson, Manager, Transport and Safety Section and staff, addressed the flight operations manual and integrating a safety management system (SMS) with the goal of obtaining certification under International Standards – Business Aircraft Operations (IS-BAO). It





was determined that as long as there are shortfalls in the budget, certification would not be pursued, at this time, due to costs associated with an audit and rewrite of the manual. Commissioner Fiddler also stated that an auditor, at this point, would see that staffing is too low for the number of aircraft that is available.

Chairman Kamarainen thanked Commissioner Fiddler for his report.

- D. Chairman Kamarainen asked Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna to give his report on the Commercial Air Service Committee.

Commissioner Kavalhuna began his report by stating that the committee met on October 10 and 21. The committee is staffed by Commissioner VanderVeen, Mr. Matt Brinker, Mr. Rick Hammond, Director Trout, and Commissioner Kavalhuna. What the committee has done so far is to try to make the Commission's input with statewide aviation policy be effective in several avenues related to commercial air service. Commissioner Kavalhuna stated that we need to give the commercial air service providers ideas of where we want their service; where we can provide economic benefits to their service; and why Michigan is a good place to have air service. To accomplish this, a request for proposal (RFP) is being developed to appoint a consultant. The RFP is scheduled to be released soon. With the consultancy, the committee hopes to be able to give the type of feedback mentioned and more.

Commissioner Kavalhuna stated that the committee will ask individuals in the aviation community, governmental entities, private sector, and commercial entities to join the committee, keeping it between seven to nine members. The committee plans to play an active role in choosing a consultant who will educate on where commercial air services should be directed in Michigan. The committee intends to work with the consultant, reporting back to the Commission with hopes it may provide ideas as to what Michigan can do to be a place where commercial air service is highly competitive, highly profitable, and highly useful to the citizenry. This is something Commissioner Kavalhuna does not think Michigan struggles with, but believes can do better.

Commissioner Kavalhuna stated that it is the committee's hope to return to the Commission within the next several months with information and discuss ideas on how the Commission may move forward in pursuing change in state policy. The committee looks forward to meeting each month and being very active in this endeavor.

Chairman Kamarainen thanked Commissioner Kavalhuna for his report.

#### IV. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Chairman Kamarainen asked Mr. Steve Zelle to give his presentation on the Michigan Private Airstrip Owners Association.



Mr. Zelle gave an update on the progress of the Michigan Private Airstrip Owners Association (MPAOA) and liability project. The bill will provide private airstrip owners with liability protection for the airstrip. He stated that once the bill is passed, it will help increase general aviation activity in Michigan. The 500 plus privately owned airstrips in Michigan are an integral part of the general aviation system, and MPAOA welcomes the support of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission and General Aviation Committee.

Chairman Kamarainen thanked Mr. Zelle for his report.

- B. Chairman Kamarainen asked Mr. Mark Grennell to give his presentation on the Airport System Manager Implementation.

Mr. Grennell reported that the Airport System Manager (ASM) was put into production in the Office of Aeronautics (Aero) on October 10, 2013. This new web application replaces the Airport Information Management System (AIMS), Aircraft Registration Database, and Tall Structure Database. AIMS has been in production since 1997, while the other two applications have been in use since 1999. All three applications were developed in Access97, which no longer has IT support and is not compatible with the newer operating systems. ASM is a commercial off-the-shelf software package developed by GCR Incorporated, which also developed the original three applications. ASM has the capability to produce licenses (aircraft, airports, and airport managers), issue tall structure permits, track grants (not currently used), collect facility inspection data, and transmit the inspection data to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) through integration with FAA's 5010 Inspection System. This system was updated to fit the needs and use of Aero. There are 19 states that use ASM to varying capacity, with most using ASM for grant management and aircraft registration.

Director Trout recognized and commended staff for the time and work devoted to this project over the past years, not only Aero staff but staff throughout the department. Director Trout thanked and congratulated staff for an outstanding job.

Chairman Kamarainen thanked Mr. Grennell for his presentation.

## **V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Chairman Kamarainen asked the commissioners if they wished to make any comments.

Commissioner VanderVeen spoke about recent legislation that was adopted eliminating the six percent state sales tax on the difference between the values of a car being traded in and a new car being purchased. The legislation included boats and recreational vehicles, but it did not include aircraft. Commissioner VanderVeen believes it was an oversight. He spoke with Senator David Robertson who introduced the legislation and was receptive to at least entertaining the inclusion of general aviation aircraft in the effort.





Director Trout reported that it is being evaluated on what the impact would be in terms of the reduction in the sales tax if enacted. At this point, initial investigation shows that there are very few airplanes that are sold in the state, but any effect that can positively impact aviation is a good thing. Director Trout stated that he too spoke with Senator Robertson who was receptive to the idea and made the comment that perhaps this is something that could be part of a larger package.

Commissioner Kavalhuna commented that at the last meeting, the commissioners were guests of the Michigan Association of Airport Executives (MAAE). He stated that each year he has been on the Commission, it has been an enjoyable experience attending MAAE's Annual Conference. MAAE is a great organization in which the Commission has had a long partnership with. On behalf of all fellow commissioners, Commissioner Kavalhuna thanked MAAE members for their partnership.

There were no other comments.

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Kamarainen asked if anyone wished to make a public comment.

Mr. Joe Hass, Oakland/Troy Airport, spoke about how the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) introduced their road map to UAS Implementation in the United States. Model aviation is mentioned and how it fits in with the UAS System. They talked about a Community Based Organization (CBO) as the governing body for model aviation activity. The Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) has petitioned FAA to be designated as the CBO for model aviation activities in the states.

Mr. Hass spoke about the STEM Teacher Workshop. He stated that one of the practical sides of bringing STEM into the classroom is how to get young people to an airport and inside an airplane. Aero modeling can make a major contribution. Mr. Hass provided an example using a model airplane that was released, flying throughout the auditorium. The idea of bringing aviation as a supplement to STEM is very possible, practical, and less expensive. Mr. Hass asked that we keep aero modeling in mind as we develop our programs.

Mr. Hass spoke about the need to obtain night approach operations at Oakland/Troy Airport (VLL).

Director Trout welcomed Capt. Mike Caldwell to the Michigan Aeronautics Commission. Director Trout stated that he was able to meet with Capt. Caldwell last week and is thrilled about the caliber of folks serving on the Commission. Capt. Caldwell is a welcome addition. Director Trout stated that Lt. Col. Atkinson was a great asset to the Commission, and he knows that Capt. Caldwell will carry on that tradition. Welcome Capt. Caldwell!

There were no other public comments.



## CLOSING

The next Michigan Aeronautics Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2014, 10:00 a.m., in the Aeronautics Building, 2700 Port Lansing Road, Lansing, Michigan.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.



Michael G. Trout, Director



Pete Kamarainen, Chairman

Dated 1-22-14

